



Story Time Guide

ABOUT THE BOOK

A young girl and her dog spend the day playing in her backyard, where with her imagination—and a few helpful props—anything can happen. What do you get when you combine dirt and water? Mud! What do you get when you take a sheet, a flowerpot, and a stick and make a costume? You transform yourself into Her Majesty, the queen! Cheerful and action-packed illustrations and a combination of comic-like panels, conversation bubbles, sound effects, and full-page illustrations make *Dirt + Water = Mud* particularly appealing for new readers.

INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

1. Since math is such a big part of the story, try some story time math of your own! Write single words on a set of index cards. Put all the cards in a bag and mix them up. Pull out two cards and see what those two items add up to. Ask the children for their suggestions.
2. Practice imaginative play with the group, just like the characters in the book. Call out different scenarios and act them out (“We’re in space!”; “Now we’re underwater!”; “A lion is chasing us!”). See if the children can quickly make adjustments.
3. Read this story using two voices—one for the girl and one for her dog. Practice your voices ahead of time. You can also use two readers for this book by getting another colleague to participate.
4. Talk about the emotional content of the book. Sometimes our friends aren’t ready to forgive us even when we say “I’m sorry.” Talk about ways that we can show our friends we are sorry.
5. Make predictions about what the girl and her dog will do the next day based on the last page in the book. Spend time focusing on the illustrations and letting the children point out details to help support their ideas.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Katherine Hannigan studied mathematics, painting, and studio art and has worked as the education coordinator for a Head Start program and, most recently, as an assistant professor of art and design. She is the author of *True (. . . Sort Of)*, *Emmaline and the Bunny*, and the national bestseller *Ida B . . . and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World*. She lives in Iowa with a bunch of cats and the occasional bunny or bird visitor.



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